

09/653,664  
9/11/06

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims Renumberings

1.-11. (CANCELED)

1 ~~12~~. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of conducting an on-line bidding session, comprising:

storing registered bidding groups in a computer accessible database coupled to a processor in an auction computer,  
5 each of the registered bidding groups including a list of associated bidders;

receiving bids from bidders on a plurality of remote computers;

determining a respective bidding group's total bid by  
10 accumulating the bids received from bidders included in the respective bidding group's list of associated bidders; and

storing the determined total bid in the database.

2 ~~13~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~12~~,  
further comprising creating registration records in the database,  
each registration record corresponding to a bidder account and  
including a bidder name, a bidder identification and a financial  
5 account number.

3 14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 13, wherein receiving bids from bidders includes receiving the respective bidder name and respective bidder identification from the bidders and the method further ~~comprising~~ comprises:

5            verifying, using the processor, whether the respective bidder name and respective identification match a registration record stored in the database; and

             recording a bid record in the database if the respective bidder name and the respective identification ~~number~~ have a  
10        verified match.

4 15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

             determining if the ~~determined total~~ respective bidding group's total bid exceeds a threshold, and if so declaring the  
5        bidding group associated with the respective total bid a winning group;

             retrieving the recorded bid records associated with the respective total bid;

             determining at least one bidder account that corresponds  
10        to the retrieved bid records; and

             charging the ~~determined bidder account~~ at least one bidder account at least one of the bid amounts included in the bid records.

5 ~~5~~ 16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~12~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein  
further comprising, after determining the total bid associated with  
the respective bidding group, sending the determined total bid over  
a computer network to at least one remote computer of at least one  
bidder associated with the respective bidding group.

~~5~~ ~~6~~ 17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of conducting an  
auction comprising

registering a plurality of bidding groups;

receiving bids from bidders, each bid including a  
5 respective bid designation corresponding to one of the plurality of  
bidding groups;

associating each bid with ~~at least~~ the one of the  
plurality of bidding groups corresponding to the respective bid  
designation; and

10 declaring a winning bidding group for the auction from  
the plurality of bidding groups based upon the bids associated with  
each bidding group; and

displaying the winning bidding group for bidders to view.

7 ~~18~~. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~17~~<sup>6</sup>, wherein  
each bidding group has a corresponding total bid amount and each

bid further includes a respective bid amount that is contributed to the total bid amount for ~~a~~ the corresponding bidding group.

~~8 19.~~ <sup>7</sup> (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~18~~, wherein the winning bidding group has the largest total bid amount at the end of ~~the~~ a bidding session of the auction.

~~9 20.~~ <sup>7</sup> (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~18~~, further comprising displaying ~~of~~ the total bid amount for one or more of the plurality of bidding groups.

~~10 21.~~ <sup>6</sup> (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~17~~, wherein ~~the~~ registering ~~a~~ the plurality of bidding groups uses at least one central computer coupled to a network.

~~11 22.~~ <sup>10</sup> (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

~~12 23.~~ <sup>10</sup> (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein the network comprises one or more communication lines.

~~13 24.~~ <sup>10</sup> (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~21~~, further comprising using one or more remote computers coupled to the network to receive bids.

14 ~~25~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~17~~<sup>6</sup>,  
wherein the auction is on-line.

15 ~~26~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~17~~<sup>6</sup>,  
further comprising creating one or more bidder accounts.

16 ~~27~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~17~~<sup>6</sup>,  
wherein associating each bid with at least one of the plurality of  
bidding groups comprises bid pooling.

17 ~~28~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~17~~<sup>6</sup>,  
wherein the auction continues until a pre-defined threshold occurs.

18 ~~29~~. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 28, wherein  
the pre-defined threshold ~~is~~ comprises a period of time.

19 ~~30~~. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 28, wherein  
the pre-defined threshold ~~is~~ comprises a minimum bidding activity.

~~20~~ ~~31~~ ~~32~~ ~~33~~ ~~34~~ ~~35~~ ~~36~~ ~~37~~ ~~38~~ ~~39~~ ~~40~~ ~~41~~ ~~42~~ ~~43~~ ~~44~~ ~~45~~ ~~46~~ ~~47~~ ~~48~~ ~~49~~ ~~50~~ ~~51~~ ~~52~~ ~~53~~ ~~54~~ ~~55~~ ~~56~~ ~~57~~ ~~58~~ ~~59~~ ~~60~~ ~~61~~ ~~62~~ ~~63~~ ~~64~~ ~~65~~ ~~66~~ ~~67~~ ~~68~~ ~~69~~ ~~70~~ ~~71~~ ~~72~~ ~~73~~ ~~74~~ ~~75~~ ~~76~~ ~~77~~ ~~78~~ ~~79~~ ~~80~~ ~~81~~ ~~82~~ ~~83~~ ~~84~~ ~~85~~ ~~86~~ ~~87~~ ~~88~~ ~~89~~ ~~90~~ ~~91~~ ~~92~~ ~~93~~ ~~94~~ ~~95~~ ~~96~~ ~~97~~ ~~98~~ ~~99~~ ~~100~~ ~~101~~ ~~102~~ ~~103~~ ~~104~~ ~~105~~ ~~106~~ ~~107~~ ~~108~~ ~~109~~ ~~110~~ ~~111~~ ~~112~~ ~~113~~ ~~114~~ ~~115~~ ~~116~~ ~~117~~ ~~118~~ ~~119~~ ~~120~~ ~~121~~ ~~122~~ ~~123~~ ~~124~~ ~~125~~ ~~126~~ ~~127~~ ~~128~~ ~~129~~ ~~130~~ ~~131~~ ~~132~~ ~~133~~ ~~134~~ ~~135~~ ~~136~~ ~~137~~ ~~138~~ ~~139~~ ~~140~~ ~~141~~ ~~142~~ ~~143~~ ~~144~~ ~~145~~ ~~146~~ ~~147~~ ~~148~~ ~~149~~ ~~150~~ ~~151~~ ~~152~~ ~~153~~ ~~154~~ ~~155~~ ~~156~~ ~~157~~ ~~158~~ ~~159~~ ~~160~~ ~~161~~ ~~162~~ 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contributing a respective bid amount in each bid to at least one total bid amount corresponding to at least one of the plurality of bidding groups; and

10 declaring a winning bidding group from the plurality of bidding groups; and

notifying the bidders that the winning bidding group has been declared.

21 ~~32~~.<sup>20</sup> (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~31~~, wherein the winning bidding group has the largest total bid amount at the end of the bidding session.

22 ~~33~~.<sup>20</sup> (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~31~~, further comprising using at least one central computer coupled to a network to register a the plurality of bidding groups.

23 ~~34~~.<sup>22</sup> (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~33~~, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

24 ~~35~~.<sup>22</sup> (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~33~~, wherein the network comprises one or more communication lines.

~~25~~<sup>22</sup>/~~36~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~33~~<sup>22</sup>, further comprising using one or more remote computers coupled to the network to receive bids.

~~26~~<sup>20</sup>/~~37~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~31~~<sup>20</sup>, wherein the auction is on-line.

~~27~~<sup>20</sup>/~~38~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~31~~<sup>20</sup>, further comprising creating one or more bidder accounts.

~~28~~<sup>20</sup>/~~39~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~31~~<sup>20</sup>, wherein contributing the respective bid amount in each bid to at least one total bid amount corresponding to at least one of the plurality of bidding groups comprises bid pooling.

~~29~~<sup>20</sup>/~~40~~. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~31~~<sup>20</sup>, further comprising displaying of the total bid amount for one or more of the plurality of bidding groups.

~~30~~<sup>20</sup>/~~41~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~31~~<sup>20</sup>, wherein the auction continues until a pre-defined threshold occurs.

~~31~~<sup>30</sup>/~~42~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The methods of claim ~~41~~<sup>30</sup>, wherein the pre-defined threshold is a period of time.

~~32~~<sup>30</sup>~~43~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~41~~, wherein the pre-defined threshold is a minimum bidding activity.

Please add the following new claims:

~~33~~<sup>20</sup>~~44~~. (NEW) The method of claim ~~31~~, wherein the winning bidding group is declared based upon a total bid associated with the winning bidding group exceeding a pre-defined threshold.

~~34~~<sup>33</sup>~~45~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~44~~, wherein the pre-defined threshold comprises a minimum price for a property being auctioned.